



ZERO BEAT

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Summer Picnic and Mobile Radio Car Show

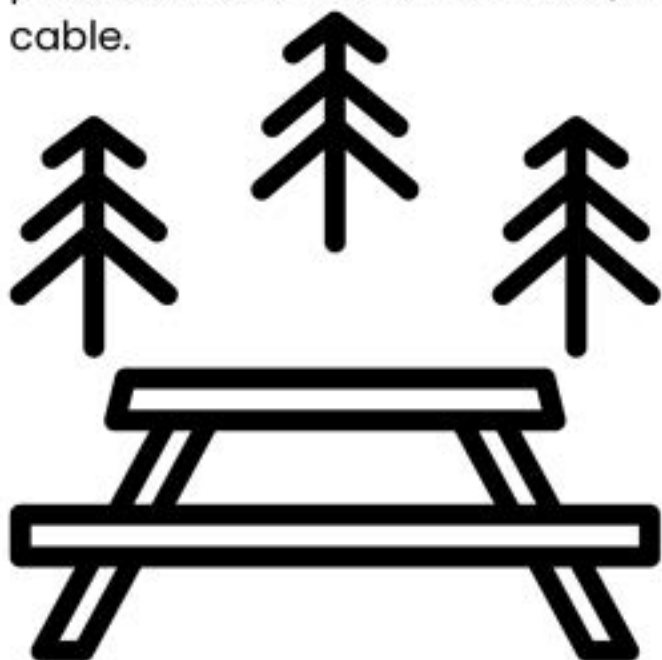
PPRAA's annual summer picnic, held on August 17, was a wonderful wrap-up for a summer full of fun events. There was delicious food, as always, grilled by Doug/N7LEM and family. There was a fox (a hidden radio transmitter) to hunt, and HF antennas dotting the lawn outside the gazebo at Fountain Creek Regional Park. We used this occasion to hold a mobile radio car show, in which amateur operators on the go could show off their mobile radios, their clever antenna mounting ideas, their power systems, their integration with the vehicle's interiors and consoles, and as always, a lot of creativity and ingenuity.





Summer Picnic and Mobile Radio Car Show cont.

First prize for the car show was awarded to Jeff/K0JSC, whose 2013 Chevy Malibu sees use in Jeff's work as a firefighter. He has a Motorola P25 radio for use as an emergency first responder, but has also integrated a second Motorola radio covering the 2-meter and 70-centimeter amateur radio bands with the control system for his work radio. Both radios are powered neatly from the vehicle's built-in fuse block, which has been upfitted to support radios and lights for emergency use. The radios are also mounted neatly under the top lip of the trunk, leaving plenty of room for his firefighting gear. Of course, to win the prize, Jeff had to be bold enough to drill into his car to mount the antennas permanently, which he has accomplished with professionalism and neatness, including the routing of the feedline coaxial cable.



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Summer Picnic and Mobile Radio Car Show



Joseph/K00F also presented a very clean installation of a 2m/70cm radio into his 2012 Chevy Suburban, with completely invisible power cabling and antenna wiring, and an NMO antenna mount looking very professional in the middle of his roof. Without that close competition from Jeff's Malibu and the integration of the ham radios with Jeff's work radios, Joseph would have taken the prize. It was close, and all who attended the car show could learn some lessons on beautiful radio installations from both Jeff and Joseph.

The most unique installation prize was awarded to Mark/K10PF, whose 2021 Toyota Tacoma was equipped with a radio that shows Mark's passion for old military radios: a PRC-1099 covers the HF bands and outputs up to 20 watts natively into a 102-inch whip antenna with a remote tuner. But Mark also includes an RM Italy amplifier, bringing his power output to 120 watts on the move! The remote tuner, amplifier, and classic military radio truly made Mark's wheeled station unique among the entrants.

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Picnic and Mobile Radio Car Show cont.

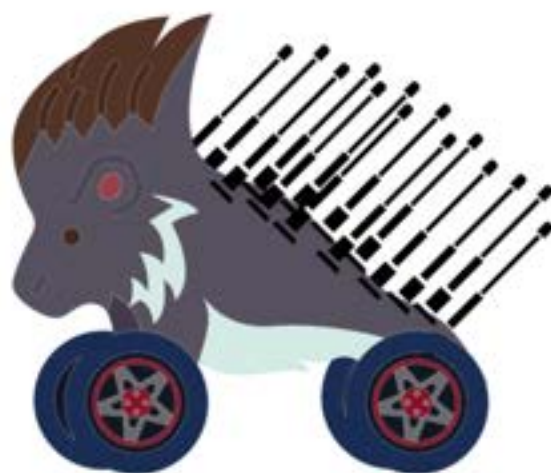
Jim/KDØKQL exhibited his famous "Blue Bunny," a 2007 Toyota FJ Cruiser with a Yaesu FT-857 driving an ATAS screwdriver antenna on his roof. Many of us have seen Jim's familiar mobile rig around Colorado Springs, but now he has a certificate to hang on the wall of his shack certifying his award for most versatile off-road rig. In addition to the flexibility of the 857, Jim has a Yaesu FT-7900 for FM on VHF and UHF bands, as well as car batteries to power his radios independently of the Cruiser's electrical system. Housed in custom furniture that can be removed easily for on-site POTA activations, field day, or emergency communications, Jim's mobile station exemplifies versatility... but the go-anywhere "Blue Bunny" itself also demonstrates versatility by being a good tool for the job whether there is a highway, a dirt road, or no road at all.



In the fun-prize categories, Rick/KEØGVU and Kathy/AEØUX won a gift certificate for their 2001 Ford F-350 work truck, which has a Yaesu FT-857 and mag-mounts allowing the use of ham-stick antennas and a VHF/UHF antenna. Their prize was for the highest odometer reading: with 308,040 miles, this wheeled ham shack has gone the farthest and is still being used for work.

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Summer Picnic and Mobile Radio Car Show cont.



The "porcupine award" fun prize for the most functional antennas could have gone to Jim/KD0KQL, because all of his antennas could be used while driving down the road. However, since he was awarded the versatility prize, porcupine runner-up Ben/AB2SG, Karen/KF0INE, and their daughter Mollie combined forces to show off not only antennas that could be used on the road for VHF/UHF, but also a variety of antennas used during their family's POTA activation outings. Mollie's contribution was a plastic replica of a 1979 tractor towing a Baofeng HT in a trailer, and since her mobile station could be used inside Ben and Karen's mobile station, it seemed fair to award them the porcupine award jointly.

The judges had a difficult time deciding all these awardees, as there was a lot of cleverness on display: Roger/W3MIX had fabricated an aluminum antenna mount for his 2007 Honda Ridgeline, where an antenna might otherwise have been difficult to position well. He even added an HT mount to his unicycle, and then demonstrated that he could ride the unicycle with a Baofeng HT in the mount... and also that he could talk on the radio while pedaling and maintaining his balance! T'Chris/KC0ITD had a Tram antenna mounted to his mobility chair on a custom PVC mount, and a Yaesu FT2D radio connected to it, giving him a lot of mode options. His little HT not only supports C4FM digital voice and has a GPS, but also has a wideband receiver with AM bar antenna inside.

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Summer Picnic and Mobile Radio Car Show cont.

To cap off a sunny day with lots of great radio activities and opportunities to learn from each others' mobile shacks, the US Navy Blue Angels used our park as a turnaround zone for their passes over the nearby Colorado Springs air show. Special thanks to Randy/KD0SPP whose quick shooting captured some beautiful photos of the Blue Angels, and thanks to all the volunteers who set up activities, judged the show, prepared foods, coached fox hunters, provided HF demonstrations, and provided fun company and conversation at PPRAA's annual picnic.

FREE Radio Licensing Test Sessions
Second Saturday of every month at 10 am
Pikes Peak Regional
Office of Emergency Management
3755 Mark Dabling Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
ve@ppraa.org

PPRAA BOARD ELECTION

NEXT MEETING - OCT 9, 2024



General Membership meeting (9 OCT 2024) will be both in-person and virtual

Location: Golden Corral, 1970 Waynoka Rd, Colorado Springs
The business meeting starts at 7 PM, but get your dinner and beverage of choice and check in any time after 6 PM for a social hour. Club members check your email for info or email Officers@PPRAA.org to receive the Zoom information.

PPRAA Club Christmas Party

Wednesday December 11, 2024 (1800 / 6PM)
Edelweiss Restaurant 34 E Ramona Ave, Colo. Spgs., CO 80905

This will be in lieu of our normal December Membership Meeting, All club business will be considered at the January 8, 2025 Club Membership Meeting.

Additional details and RSVP information at PPRAA.ORG

Send RSVP to xmas@ppraa.org

Contact Zero Beat

Do you have photos of PPRAA events you'd like to share, or news from the ham radio world that the club might like to hear? Please email zerobeat@ppraa.org to share your ideas and pictures.